

ducting a *post-mortem* examination, and has deprived the Colonial Service of an upright and promising officer in the very prime of life.

Mr. Croker was born at Dublin in 1875, and was the son of an army medical officer. He gained honours in the Cambridge Local Examination, and entered upon his medical studies at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1891, obtaining in due course the conjoint diplomas of the Royal Colleges. In 1897 he was given charge of the pathological department of the Sussex County Hospital, where he acted temporarily as one of the resident staff and gave great satisfaction. In the next and following years he was Assistant Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and from thence he went to the Victoria Hospital for Children at Chelsea, where he was House-Physician in 1899-1900. On the breaking out of the war in South Africa, Mr. Croker received an appointment as Civil Surgeon, and served on the surgical side successively in the General Hospitals at Newcastle, Howick, and Pretoria, where he did excellent work. He also had sole charge of the medical division of the Military Hospital at Krugersdorp for more than half a year, and served with the R.A.M.C. in the South-Eastern Home District until the autumn of 1904.

Subsequently he studied for some months at the London County Asylum at Banstead, but foreign service had given him a taste for travel, and in May, 1905, Mr. Croker was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the list of applicants for a vacancy in the Government Medical Department of Fiji, whither he proceeded in October of that year, after taking the usual course at the London School of Tropical Medicine. In Fiji his abilities and striking personal advantages were early recognized, and after a few months in a provincial out-station to gain necessary experience in the habits and language of the natives, he was recalled to fill the responsible post of Resident Medical Officer at the Colonial Hospital at Suva, where he constantly gave the most conscientious attention to his patients, coloured as well as white, and endeared himself in a short twelve months to his colleagues and all those associated with him in his work. At the time his last illness came upon him he was temporarily engaged in examining newly-arrived Indian coolies at the Quarantine Dépôt, and was not himself aware of his real condition. He worked steadily on for five days, with malaise and a rising temperature, and only yielded when it reached 104°—never reporting himself ill to the authorities. On his illness being made known in Suva medical assistance was immediately sent, and on Good Friday one of his colleagues—who, as it happened, had been a fellow-student with Mr. Croker at St. Thomas's—brought him away from the quarantine island in a fast motor launch to Suva. He was at once received into a private ward in the hospital in which, less than a week before, he had been doing his ordinary duty as resident medical officer; but septicaemia had already gained the mastery, and the skill of his colleagues availed no more than the assiduous care of his nurses. On the next evening but two he passed away—in a distant land, but on the very scene of his own good work, and in the presence of his sorrowing brother officers and staff. Lieutenant T. J. Croker, R.N., and a sister, who are understood to be the only surviving near relatives, have our true sympathy.

DONALD JAMES MACDONALD, M.B., C.M. ABERD.,
STORNOWAY.

WE regret to have to record the death of Dr. Donald James Macdonald of Stornoway, which took place on May 3rd after a short illness. The deceased, who was born at Garrabost, Stornoway, 53 years ago, received his literary education at the Aberdeen Grammar School, where he greatly distinguished himself. He afterwards studied medicine at the university of that city, where his ability and devotion to work brought him under the favourable notice of his teachers. He was for some time professionally associated with the late Dr. Robert John Garden, Senior Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, to whose children he had been tutor for two years. He graduated M.B., C.M. in 1889, and in the same year qualified as D.P.H. He subsequently entered into partnership with Dr. C. M. Macrae, the Nestor of the medical profession in the North. Dr. Macdonald held several public appointments, including those of

Medical Officer to the Post Office, Inland Revenue and Customs, and Certifying Factory Surgeon, and on the resignation last year of Dr. Macrae was elected to succeed him in the office of Medical Officer of part of the parish of Stornoway. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Ross and Cromarty. Eight years ago he married Dr. A. M. Weir, a daughter of Mr. J. G. Weir, M.P. for Ross and Cromarty; the union proved a singularly happy one. With his wife and his father-in-law he made a trip round the world some years ago.

Dr. Macdonald possessed mental abilities of an exceptional order, and such as enabled him, without much apparent effort, to master any subject he took up. He was widely and deeply read in medicine and the allied sciences, and his extraordinary memory enabled him to use his knowledge with effect. Of botany he made a speciality for his moments of relaxation from harder pursuits, and a visit to his garden and hothouses was a rare treat. His bent was more towards medicine than surgery, but he was a skilled pathologist and bacteriologist. He knew general literature well, but never had the leisure to cultivate it as he would. His powers of observation were exceptional.

The funeral, which took place on May 7th, was of a public character, as many as 500 persons being present, including representatives of the Fortrose Lodge of Freemasons, of which Dr. Macdonald was a member, and of the Loyal Lewis Lodge of Oddfellows, of which he was Medical Officer.

JOHN SIBLEY HICKS, F.R.C.S. EDIN., L.R.C.P. LOND.,
LIVERPOOL.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. John Sibley Hicks, which took place at his residence, 11, Bertram Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool, on June 1st. Mr. Hicks was a native of the Scottish Highlands; he studied in the Medical School of the University of Glasgow, and qualified as Licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and as Licentiate in Midwifery in 1860. For some years he served as medical officer on one of the liners plying between Liverpool and America, and he also had professional experience in the hostilities between the Northern and Confederate States. A keen observer of all that went on around him, he had some interesting facts to narrate regarding the war. As a practitioner of some forty years' standing in Liverpool his name was long a household word in the neighbourhood of Erskine Street, where he used to reside, and among the profession he was held in high and deserved esteem. He became F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1871, and L.R.C.P. Lond. in the same year. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society, ex-President of the Liverpool Microscopical Society, Vice-President of the Liverpool Naturalists' Field Club, and Vice-President of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society.

THE death occurred in Faling on May 30th of Dr. MAXWELL TYLDEN MASTERS, F.R.S., at the age of 74. Dr. Masters, who studied medicine at King's College Hospital, became L.S.A. in 1854, M.R.C.S. in 1856, M.D. St. Andrews in 1862, and for a few years engaged in ordinary practice. On his appointment, however, as Lecturer on Botany at St. George's Hospital, he gave himself up to that study, and in connexion with it acquired great distinction. His talent in this direction was inherited from his father, a nurseryman of Canterbury, who effected some notable hybridizations of aloes and other plants. Dr. Masters, the son, a man of wide culture, became editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1865, and conducted it with great success up to the time of his death. His publications, which included a volume of Vegetable Teratology, were numerous, and his attainments widely recognized both at home and abroad. In addition to being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, he was appointed a corresponding member of the Institute of France in 1888, and an Officer of the Order of Leopold a few years later. He also for some years acted as Examiner in Botany for the University of London.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM PERCY BRIDGES, retired Army Medical Staff, died in London on March 24th. He joined the department as Assistant Surgeon, September 30th, 1871; became Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; Surgeon-Major, September 30th, 1883; and Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel, September 30th, 1891. He retired from the service, October 21st, 1896.